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## FOOD INFORMATION

Office of Information  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C.

June

Farm Labor Campaign

No. 16

### June Farm Labor Jobs

June is a critical month in the battle for food in meeting the farm labor problem. It is the end of the major planting season for many important crops. Floods and rainy, cool weather have damaged crops and delayed planting in important areas, and every assurance must be given farmers now that labor will be available to harvest their crops. School is out for millions of youngsters who can help; hundreds of thousands of city workers are planning or beginning to take what summer vacation they can. With help from these sources for farm and canning-plant work, the U. S. Crop Corps becomes a fast-growing working army.

Harvesting is in full swing in the winter wheat country and in the vegetable crop areas. Extra labor is also needed in the various areas to chop cotton, pick strawberries, gather potatoes, harvest and send to market fresh vegetables, thin and hoe beets, and do other jobs. Everywhere seasonal harvest jobs are ahead, and plans must be pushed now to meet them.

Crop Corps recruitment swings into the local stages. County by county, local counties are spelling out the number of extra workers needed, when and for what vital jobs, where they register, etc.

The major public relation job for Government workers, local farm labor and mobilization committees cooperating, and advertising, press, radio, and other cooperating groups, includes making appeals to farmers and to prospective workers and reporting progress.

### Appeals to Farmers

1. That the new Crop Corps workers can be good workers. Though inexperienced, they are willing and patriotic workers. They may not be what the farmer is accustomed to, but with a little training and sympathetic supervision, as well as ingenuity on the part of the farmer, they can and will do the necessary jobs that farmers can't get done otherwise.
2. That the war demands the best possible production from every acre; that no food can be allowed to go unharvested or uncultivated.
3. That the farmer's job is a vital war job. His efforts are appreciated. That he has a splendid production record in the face of wartime difficulties.
4. That it is necessary to make the most efficient use of all labor on the farm and of all possible new workers.

Appeals to Prospective Workers

1. That farm work is war work.
2. Importance of food - we can't have too much.
3. Shortage of farm labor; why the farmer must have additional labor.
4. That unless everybody who can, helps when help is needed, much food may go to waste.
5. That the farm and canning-plant labor problem must largely be met locally.
6. That persons who can help, register with the county agent or U. S. Employment Service office. (Better still, point out in more local stories the exact name and office address.)

Reports of Progress

One of the best ways to encourage labor recruitment, increase farmer morale, reassure the public, and explain the Crop Corps is to report progress in meeting local labor problems. Play up in every way possible local examples of how Crop Corps workers and farmers are meeting serious labor problems that are already upon us.

Major Farm Labor Needs in June

<u>Area</u>	<u>Estimated man-hours needed</u>
Flood area (Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Ohio): Much extra labor will be needed to repair flood-damaged machinery, buildings, and fences, replant flooded crops and prepare land quickly for crops that must be planted at once.	
Northeast and North Middle Atlantic:	
Strawberries - All harvesting.	5,500,000
Vegetables - Begin harvesting.	10,000,000
Middle East and Middle Atlantic:	
Corn - Peak of cultivating.	50,000,000
Winter wheat - Begin harvesting.	7,000,000
Snap beans - Begin harvesting.	1,000,000
Irish potatoes - Begin harvesting.	4,500,000
Other vegetables - Begin harvesting.	2,000,000
South - except Florida:	
Corn - Finish cultivating.	60,000,000
Cotton - Finish cultivating and chopping out.	300,000,000
Peaches - Begin picking.	1,500,000
Snap beans - Finish harvesting.	1,000,000
Potatoes - Finish harvesting.	1,300,000
Tomatoes - Begin picking.	3,750,000
Other vegetables - Begin picking.	25,000,000

Area (Continued)Estimated man-hours needed

## Florida:

Citrus fruits and tomatoes - Picking.

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## Corn Belt:

Corn - Peak of cultivating.

80,000,000

Oats - Begin harvesting.

8,000,000

Winter wheat - Begin harvesting.

10,000,000

Soybeans - Finish planting.

21,000,000

Hay - Begin to cut and store.

58,000,000

## Western Plains and Rocky Mountains:

Hay - Cut and store.

10,000,000

Sugar beets - Finish thinning and hoeing.

15,000,000

## Southern Great Plains:

Winter wheat - Begin to harvest and market.

10,000,000

## California and Far West:

Cotton - Chopping out, 400,000 acres.

6,000,000

Sugar beets - Thin and hoe.

3,000,000

Cottonwoods - Picking.

1,000,000

Tartan apples - Picking, 65,000 acres.

450,000

Other vegetables.

10,000,000

Dry edible beans.

7,000,000

